

REPORTER

NOVEMBER 09, 2007 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

**VIOLENCE &
VIDEOGAMES**
HARMLESS RECREATION
OR MURDER SIMULATOR?

SECOND LIFE
WELCOME TO YOUR
VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

MICROWAVABLES
AN UNORTHODOX COOKING
RE-HEATING EXTRAVAGANZA!



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EDITOR’S NOTE

THE PRESSURE PRINCIPLE

When academics or the makers of Second Life (page 22) are speaking, that premiere social computing game is about an emerging era in virtual interaction—a brave new ground for worldwide communication, personalized education, and the global economy.

When almost anyone else is speaking, Second Life is about sex. Just ask Kyle Machulis, inventor of the first sex toy interface for Second Life. Machulis’ work in the field of teledildonics (his word, not mine) allows your partner in Second Life to take the reins of your, ahem, online experience. I’m sure he’s well prepared to talk about the fetish world of the Second Life forums in stunning detail.

There’s no denying that sex is a pervasive element in cyberspace. The real question is why. I refuse to believe that the virtual Second Life experience is an on-par substitute for reality. Even with Machulis’ inventions, the human element must go straight to zero. So why is this inherently personal and intimate act being outsourced to HTTP packets and modems?

My guess is that we’re terrified to speak about sex in our culture, and are thus suppressing our very real biological instincts. Regardless of your feelings on premarital and/or non-traditional relations, this sperm suffocation can’t be healthy. Suppressing sex altogether is very different from abstinence, and I think we’re feeling the negative effects.

Think about boiling water on your stove. When you stick the lid on the pot and leave it there, the steam builds pressure and starts shooting out the sides, threatening to blow the lid off at any moment. Sex is the same way, and most of us are holding that lid on way too tight. Unless we relax our grip a bit, that lid is going to fly off in a rage. I like to call this phenomenon The Pressure Principle.

You might be skeptical about that point. *Jen, how can you possibly think that sex is taboo in America! Look at MTV! Look at all the condoms RIT keeps giving me!* I’d invite you to do the same. Look at MTV. Look at shows like A Shot at Love, and really *watch* them. These people must be crazy stifled in the real world if they’re seriously trying to find “love” and “a real connection” on television. And we must be crazy for watching— like that show’s host, this street goes both ways. Maybe we take great pleasure in seeing other people flaunt their sexual desires on TV because we’re too busy covering up our own.

And what does that gifted condom, given in complete anonymity, really say? I think it very silently reinforces the backward notion that guys on this campus (and on this planet) are perpetually on the prowl, just hunting for a little action. It adds pressure to otherwise normal conversations via that little voice in the back of a girl’s mind that says *Is this guy trying to get in my pants?* every time a guy asks a question about next week’s matrix algebra homework. Per the previous metaphor, our pot has blown its top.

Maybe we just need to let off a little steam every now and again. Ask someone out without worrying about second guessing the possible sexual motivation. And maybe, should that casual date turn into three or four, we could take a crack at being a little more honest about what, if anything, we’re looking for.



Jen Loomis
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CORRECTION

The graph titled *President Bush's Policies Are...*, located on page 19 of the November 2 issue is incorrect. The purple bars are supposed to refer to "Keeping Manufacturing Jobs in this Country" and the yellow bars should refer to "Keeping White Collar Jobs in this Country".

DEAR REPORTER, Haikus seem to be all the rave as of late in Reporter, so I'm formatting my response to last week's "A Very Snug Situation" appropriately:

Karen, you don't live
In a Japanese dorm room
So get over it.

ROBERT SONGER
Fifth year Software Engineering

DEAR REPORTER, The leaves are changing To red, yellow, and orange. Get ready for snow!

MATTHEW MAZAIKA
President, Society of Software Engineers
Fourth year Software Engineering

DEAR REPORTER, I have to admit, the Dating Tips for Geeks article was pretty good. It made a lot of excellent points. But one thing it forgot to mention is that a little chivalry goes a long way. For example, I was carrying a 50-ish pound monitor down to a campus bus stop the other day, and it was very obviously too awkward and heavy for me. So how many guys held doors for me? None. How many offered to help carry it, even if we made it a team effort? None. If any guy would have stopped to help, I would've gladly thanked him and even had a conversation with him. He'd have made a new friend quite easily. But every guy I saw passed up the chance. Too bad. You all missed out.

SUSAN COOK

TO SEND LETTERS

E-MAIL reporter@rit.edu. Reporter will not print anonymous letters.

NOTE Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are solely those of the author. Reporter reserves the right to edit submissions on the basis of content, length, grammar, spelling, and style. Letters are not guaranteed publication. Submissions may be printed and reprinted in any medium. Reporter will not run responses to letters that are responding to a letter.

RIT INSTALLS "GREEN ROOF"

by Joe McLaughlin
photograph by Jeffrey Porter

a "green roof" has been installed atop the new building under construction in front of buildings 70 and 78. FMS Manager for HVAC Control Services Witold Bujak said that this is the first step in making new construction on campus more environmentally friendly.

The green roof consists of 300 square feet of grass planted on tiles. The rest of the roof is a "white roof," which is designed to reflect heat and light from the building. Each tile took approximately four months to grow before being installed. Per Bujak, the tiles "...Protect the building from sunlight and heat, produce oxygen, and provide aesthetic value." The tiles are designed to evenly distribute rainwater to irrigate the grass. "If there's no rain," Bujak explained, "it will hibernate, just like normal grass."

The United States Green Building Council is expected to give LEED certification to the new construction, reflecting environmentally friendly choices made in categories such as water savings, energy efficiency, and materials selection. According to the council's website, "LEED certified buildings have reduced operating costs, [have] healthier and more productive occupants, and conserve our natural resources."

According to George Irwin of Green Living Technologies who donated the materials to RIT, the market value of the new roof is \$5,500. "RIT's roof is a species of grass related to the cactus. It can go six to eight weeks

without water, but can absorb its weight in water in minutes. We can virtually eliminate storm water runoff with a green roof." Additionally, Irwin said, "The layer directly below the grass is made mostly from recycled brick from Cornell University. This roof is a fully sustainable product."

Two sensors will be installed in the roof to measure the difference in temperature between the white and green roof. Hopes Bujak, "[This could be] some sort of lab. By measuring long term information, we can test the durability and behavior of this material." According to Bujak, students from the College of Applied Science and Technology have already begun testing the material for the following: "Stability, the ability to flip 90 degrees and withstand harsh conditions."

"We'd like to do something that would bridge across student groups," said Bujak. "We already have a success story with the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, where Photo students are taking photos of the progressing construction site to demonstrate the amount of energy, effort, and time it takes to put together a building of that size."

"We wanted to celebrate the first green building on campus," said Bujak. "We wanted a feature in the lobby to remind people. We will have a living 'green wall' to be part of a permanent green display. Not only can a roof be green, they've deployed technology to have a vertical wall. This is a big step for us. We will consider green roofs ever after on new construction and buildings, where we resurface roof area." •

Witold Bujak, Manager of HVAC Control Services at Facilities Management holds a sample of grass from the new "green roof" on top of the unfinished College of Applied Science and Technology Building.



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PUBLIC SAFETY CONDUCTS LOT SECURITY AUDITS

by Andy Rees

Vehicle larceny, also known as “car hopping,” has decreased significantly over the past three years, according to Public Safety Investigator Rod Lezette. This is largely due to a car survey program currently underway at RIT, claims Lezette. In an effort to minimize the number of vehicle larcenies on campus, parking lots around RIT are being targeted for these surveys.

Vehicle larceny is the act of illegally entering a vehicle and stealing objects found within. On campus, the majority of vehicle larcenies have taken place in parking lots by the Residence Halls.

Known as Lot Security Audits, the surveys are conducted by Public Safety officers who inspect each car in the lot individually, checking vehicles for certain criteria. These criteria are based on what thieves look for in a target vehicle, such as unlocked doors, open windows, and visible equipment. Lezette also notes that vehicles with stereo equipment decals, as well as visible stereo wires and detachable faceplates left in the vehicle, attract a lot of car hoppers.

After a Lot Security Audit, a notice is sent to the owner of each inspected vehicle, informing them of how secure their car was. A vehicle falls into one of two criteria, “Easy Target” or “Harder Target,” based on its overall security. The idea is that once an owner has been informed of their vehicle’s weaknesses, they will be more cautious of the condition in which they leave it parked.

Lezette reminds students to leave valuables in their cars only if they

absolutely must, and even then, to leave them locked in the trunk. As with all crimes, the easiest way to reduce vehicle larcenies is to prevent them. “If you see any suspicious activity, don’t be afraid to call Public Safety,” advises Lezette.

UNKNOWN PERPETRATOR CAUSES DAMAGE TO CAMPUS SERVERS

by Joe McLaughlin

“Between 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., unknown person(s) removed ties for switches for air conditioners for a temperature sensitive room and turned off the air conditioners,” said a Public Safety report on criminal activity for October 31.

The temperature controlled room is a server room for Finance & Administration Systems and Technology (FAST), which is located below building 30. The switches are located outside the building. According to Fredrick Barnard, Systems Administrator for FAST, “The server room heated from 65 degrees to 104 degrees” in the approximately eight hours the air conditioners were off. “At the very least, this is expected to impact the end of life of the systems,” says Barnard.

The building 30 servers provide databases as well as software that allows users to access them. FAST’s technical support staff is also housed in the room, although no one was there at the time. If the servers overheat, components could possibly be damaged. FAST did not have a damage report available at press time.

Barnard said that although

security cameras can view the area, “...The cameras were pointed in the wrong direction at the time.”

“There was no rhyme or reason to this, but it was obviously intentional,” said Public Safety Investigator Rod Lezette. He added that the perpetrator is believed to be a student. As of Friday, November 3, “We have no leads,” said Lezette.



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compiled by Adam Botzenhart

10 SATURDAY
WESTERN NEW YORK NATIONAL PORTFOLIO DAY
Building 7A. Registration starts at 10:00 a.m. Portfolio reviews from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Representatives from 42 colleges will be around to critique portfolios and promote their schools. For more information, visit <http://www.npda.org>.

11 SUNDAY
POLISH FILM FESTIVAL: JASMINUM Little Theatre, 240 East Ave, 7:20 p.m. – 9:10 p.m. “Jasminum,” 2006, directed by Jan Jakub Kolski, is a beautifully told, bittersweet comedy. A young woman and her small daughter arrive at a convent, where she is restoring paintings. The inquisitive mind of her charming five-year-old daughter wreaks havoc in the ordered life of the monastery, where people, buildings, and smells have their own secrets. Cost: \$5.

12 MONDAY
SONGS OF THE SPIRIT
Nazareth College Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. An interfaith and multi-ethnic musical extravaganza promoting global unity and peace, featuring brilliant performances by Tibetan monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery Haale and the Shangilia Children's Choir of Kenya among others. Regular admission: \$50. Find a Nazareth student to buy tickets: less than \$50.

13 TUESDAY
THE TEASE: BURLESQUE PERFORMERS FROM THE 1950S & ‘60S George Eastman House, all day. An exhibition featuring hundreds of 8 by 10 inch glossy

publicity photos of Burlesque performers in the 1950s and 1960s. Cost: \$5.
THE SHAPE OF THINGS Nazareth College Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Play: Nerdy Adam meets edgy Evelyn at an art museum and a torrid romance ensues. Mature audiences only. Cost: \$15.

14 WEDNESDAY
POLISH FILM FESTIVAL: I AM LOOKING AT YOU, MARY Little Theatre, 240 East Ave, 7:20 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. “I am Looking at You, Mary,” 2000, directed by Lukasz Barczyk, draws attention to important factors shaping the lives of young people after the collapse of communism in Poland; their dependence on parents, and fear of the future. Cost: \$5.
KEVIN NORTON’S COUNTERPOINT THREE Bop Shop Atrium in the Village Gate, 8 p.m. Kevin Norton's jazz trio performs. For more info, check out bopshop.com Suggested donation: \$8.

15 THURSDAY
TEACH IN: ARE YOU ASKING THE WRONG QUESTIONS ABOUT IRAQ? SUNY Brockport Edwards Hall Blue Room, 6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. A panel of Ph.Ds present and field comments regarding Iraq. Cost: Free.
PHILHARMONICS 4: BEETHOVEN’S PASTORAL Eastman Theatre, 8 p.m. Beethoven's joyful “Pastoral Symphony” enlivens his visions of a country life. Cost \$20 - \$55.

16 FRIDAY
THE SORCERER
Salem United Church of Christ, 60 Bittner Street, 8 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Off-Monroe Players present Gilbert and Sullivan’s “The Sorcerer.” Cost: Free.

INCREASED E-MAIL SIZES AND WIRELESS NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS
The Institute Technology Committee reported that all student e-mail boxes have been (roughly) doubled in size. The old e-mail limits gave a warning at 20 megabytes, stopped outgoing messages at 30 megabytes, and locked the account at 40 megabytes. The new system reaches these benchmarks at 50, 75, and 100 megabytes respectively.

The committee also reported that the wireless network on the academic side is currently being re-tooled to offer better coverage to all academic buildings. When this project is finished, ITS will be looking into installing a wireless network for the residential side of campus.

NEW CONSTRUCTION AND A STUDENT COMMUNITY WATCH PROGRAM
The Campus Developments and Improvements Committee reported that the new building between Crossroads and GCCIS would be an administrative building, thus allowing Building 1 (the current administrative building) to offer more classrooms. The new building will also dedicate an entire floor to student services.

The committee also reported that a Community Watch program, staffed entirely by students, is being explored. Student volunteers to this program would be supplied with a Community Watch-branded jacket, radio, and car while on duty, and would make reports to Public Safety about possible crimes occurring on campus. The volunteers would not have the authority to act as officers, but would be able to escort students, perform CPR in life-threatening emergencies, etc.

REVISIONS TO CLUB GUIDELINES
The Senate voted to change the guidelines for club review. Clubs with similar goals or vision statements to already existing clubs will no longer be denied Student Government recognition.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT
Chris Denninger, Director of Public Safety, attended the meeting to explain the purpose of his department, as well as answer any questions that the Senators had about Public Safety and its role on campus. Among other things, Denninger mentioned the new alert system (see November 2, page 8) and increased security audits for the campus parking lots (see page 8).

CAST Senator Dan Martin asked if surveillance had been increased since the Crossroads robbery that occurred a couple of years ago. Denninger replied that surveillance was not the issue for that particular incident, as the crime was done by an inside man. The response to that robbery, he elaborated, was to increase crime prevention by examining how different departments were storing and securing their safes.

When asked by OCASA Representative Jacqueline Robinson about the purpose of the Segways, Denninger responded with the following points: Segways help officers save gas (as they no longer need to patrol campus in cars), allow Public Safety increased visibility in the center of campus, and are eco-friendly alternatives to squad cars.

AN EXPERIMENT IN AWESOMENESS: BLOWING STUFF UP IN A MICROWAVE

by Laura Mandanas | photograph by Eric Drummond

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this lab was to investigate the relationship between microwaves, foreign objects, and awesomeness. The experiment was carried out by putting various foreign objects into the microwave oven, turning it on, making observations, and assigning an “awesomeness” rating to each object. These ratings then allowed the scientists to draw more conclusions about said relationship. To cut a long story short: Reporter blew up stuff in a microwave. It’s a tough job, but somebody’s got to do it. After all, this is for the betterment of science.

2. HYPOTHESIS

According to the Powers that Be (a.k.a. everyone’s favorite search engine/demigod, Google), microwaves are unable to travel through metal. Put a piece of metal with sharp points or bends in a microwave oven, and it can cause sparks of electricity. Alternatively, very thin pieces of metal will probably go up in flames. Hypothesis: microwave ovens + foreign objects (preferably with metal parts) = awesome.

A NOTE ON MICROWAVE SCIENCE

Microwave ovens work by shooting electromagnetic waves throughout the cooking chamber. The reason that this will heat up a bowl of EasyMac (or a slice of lasagna, or a cup of hot chocolate) is due to the water molecules inside the food. As the electromagnetic waves bounce around in

the cooking chamber, an electric field fluctuates back and forth at a rate of 2.45 billion times per second. The water molecules, because they each have a positive charge on one end and a negative charge on the other end, rotate back and forth very rapidly in order to align with the changing electric field. As they twist, they rub against each other, and the friction causes things to heat up.

In case you were wondering: microwave radiation is on the low frequency end of the spectrum,

and unlike UV rays, X-rays, and gamma rays, it doesn’t have the energy to mess up your DNA and cause the genetic damage associated with cancer. As a matter of fact, microwave photons have less energy than visible light. So go ahead and heat up those leftovers; your microwave oven is not going to give you cancer. You’re much more likely to get hurt by letting some idiot blow things up in it...



3. MATERIALS

- 1 unwanted microwave oven
- Red, yellow, and green LEDs
- 1 lightbulb
- Blank CDs
- 1 underwire bra
- 1 bottle of ultra-concentrated Dawn dish soap; top taken off
- 1 tube of Extreme Clean Aquafresh toothpaste (partially used); cap firmly screwed on
- 1 pack of Extra sugarfree gum, Spearmint flavor
- Metal bobby pins
- 1 bag of Quaker Rice Snacks in an aluminum “chip” bag (cheddar cheese flavor)
- 1 can of Coca Cola; tab pulled open, one sip taken
- Garbage bag
- Paper towels
- Fire extinguisher

4. DATA ANALYSIS

ITEM	OBSERVATIONS	AWESOMENESS (ON A SCALE OF 1–5)
LEDS	The red LEDs seemed to light up first in both trials, but this may have been coincidence. Further testing is required.	4
LIGHTBULB	This worked exactly the same way as the LEDs, but on a bigger scale. The microwave oven was turned off before the full minute.	2
CDS	CD + microwave oven = tiny lightning storm. Bonus: Souvenirs! The resulting CDs look <i>awesome</i> . You could use them as coasters, hang them up, whatever... Every other experiment but the CDs found a new home in the garbage.	5
BRA	It took a while for anything to happen, but after about 20 seconds, the bra caught fire near the metal hooks on the back. It had to be stomped out.	4
DISH SOAP	Bubbled up a bit and spilled over the edge, but very slowly.	1
COCA COLA	After a full minute, nothing had happened. Seriously disappointing.	1
TOOTHPASTE	The tube swelled, then a hole ripped along the side. A miniscule amount of toothpaste leaked out.	1
GUM	Sparks, followed by intermittent blue, green, and pink flames. Epic.	5
BOBBY PINS	Sparks, followed by yellow/orange fire.	3
RICE SNACK BAG	There was a loud pop, and then the bag began shrinking. It molded itself to the rice snacks.	2

5. PROCEDURE

The items were placed (one at a time) in the cooking chamber of the microwave oven, and set to cook for one minute. For safety’s sake, many items were removed before the minute ended. After any flames died down, the objects were then scraped out of the bowels of the microwave oven and put into the garbage bag. The fire extinguisher, kept on hand as an additional safety precaution, was never used (however, an editor’s foot stomped out a flame or two). Observations were made, and each experiment was assigned an “awesomeness” rating on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the most awesome and 1 being the least awesome. Objects that performed especially well (the objects with high levels of awesomeness) were subjected to additional testing.

6. CONCLUSION

The hypothesis was overwhelmingly confirmed. Microwave ovens + foreign objects are, in fact, seriously awesome.



WARNING

Do not— under any circumstances— repeat this (or any variation of this experiment) indoors. Not only will your roommates despise you (these experiments smell like pure evil, and will foul up your kitchen area for weeks to come), but if you live on campus, this could get you into serious trouble. Reporter is not responsible for your actions, sober or otherwise.



MACBETH:
THE LAWFUL EVIL
WARRIOR WITH NO
SAVING THROWS

by David Carter
photograph by Megan Rossman

Y our party arrives in the country of Scotland. There is news of a new bloodthirsty sovereign with mythical invincibility. Your party has limited options. You can either face the King and face certain death, or seek a man named Macduff residing in nearby England. He alone can counter the immortal Macbeth’s power. If you choose to accept this quest to find Macduff, roll a twenty-sided die to ensure safe travel.

OK, so maybe this tale is not the fabrication of a Dungeon Master. I hope it is safe to assume that the majority of you have either read or witnessed a performance of William Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* at some occasion in your previous education. Personally, I had to read it for twelfth grade English class. Recently, RIT’s own NTID Performing Arts portrayed the ultimate tale of a man’s bloodthirsty ambition. Signing and voic-

ing actors and actresses (ignoring Shakespearian tradition of having all-male casts) shared the Panara stage.

Oh, you’ve seen the movie already? Sorry, but that does not count towards your Elvin Ranger’s experience or knowledge of the performing arts. You are not going to roll your way out of this situation. This portrayal of Macbeth had something for hearing and deaf alike. Slow motion sword fighting, a bubbling caldron, and a drunken porter held the audience’s attention between monologues. You should apologize to your twelfth grade English teacher for missing this performance. The oral performers recited lines, while the signing actors interpreted Macbeth into ASL. That is really far more impressive than a plus seven Shadow Cloak of Warding.

Opening night, however, was not without mistakes. There were minor issues with the microphone system for the speaking parts. Even so, this did not deter the voice actors from eloquently delivering their lines. The signing actors put on a commendable performance. To be

honest, I know a very minimal amount of ASL, so I have no way of knowing if there were any missed lines. Judging by their performances, I have complete confidence that they were prepared and almost flawlessly delivered. I can barely sign the alphabet, let alone complex Shakespearian soliloquies. The overall performance was outstanding.

Motion pictures may have special effects, but there is something to be said about witnessing a performance live. I highly recommend the next NTID Performing Arts production. It is definitely worth putting away your character sheets and your hand painted pewter figurines. What Shakespearian play will be next? Will a tragic Juliet take her own life, or will an insane Hamlet read nothing but “Words, words, words...”

Just avoid any portrayal of *Titus Andronicus*. Trust me; wait for the Rob Zombie rendition, if there will ever be one. •

.....
Actors perform Macbeth at the RIT NTID Panara Theatre on Friday, November 2, 2007.



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CONSUME WITH CAUTION

by Reid Muntz | photograph by Dave Londres



When it comes to consumption, ignorance is bliss. Not many people look at the ingredients in what they're eating, but they'd be appalled if they took the time to glance. The average list conjures up images of beakers and test tubes, and of wild-haired scientists with goggles and thick rubber gloves. Here's a vocabulary lesson on the darker side of food.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS CARMINE SAN DIEGO?

Eating bugs isn't just an obscure foreign thing. We do it, too. A lot. Fortunately, the USDA only allows two critters per kilogram of grain in the production of human foodstuffs. Unfortunately, the insects usually find a way in when it's in storage. Thanks to modern technology, namely irritatingly thick cereal bags, this is usually not a problem anymore. Yet the bugs have succeeded once more in ensuring that they are eaten. Look through the Yoplait Strawberry Yogurt, Good & Plenty candies, or Nerds candies ingredient list, and you'll find carmine. Translated into understandable English, this means "smashed bugs". The Cochineal insect is smashed and boiled before carminic acid is extracted from what's left of it. Ironically, the acid is used by the insect as a feeding deterrent. (Bonus fact: Carmine is also used in cosmetics!)

WHICH COLORS OF THE RAINBOW ARE CARCINOGENS?

Wild salmon derive their orange hue from a hardy diet of shrimp. Their farm-raised breth-

ren, fed a diet of fish feed, become a gruesome gray. To keep the coloring, salmon are fed the unpronounceable duo of astaxanthin and canthaxanthin. The European Union has limited the amounts of these dyes that can be used. Apparently, large amounts can cause anything from itching welts and liver injury to eye disorders. The yellow tint of raw chicken is also caused by canthaxanthin. Bacon and ham gain that perfect shade of red via sodium ascorbate. Egg yolks are artificially colored as well, thanks to modified hen feed. Titanium oxide can be found coloring white paint and Betty Crocker vanilla frosting.

IT MIGHT MAKE YOUR FOOD LAST, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Preservatives, of course, are all sorts of fun. Sodium benzoate, in addition to being used profusely in food, is also used in antifreeze. Sodium nitrite has a variety of preservative uses. Sporting a résumé including everything from a cyanide antidote to an intestinal relaxant, it can also act as a carcinogen. Ethylene glycol can be found in antifreeze, shoe polish, and as a rot treatment for wood. Thirty milliliters of it are considered a fatal dose.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR TEETH HAVE TOUCHED?

Capsaicin, which makes peppers hot, is (of course) found in pepper spray. Honey has mild antiseptic properties. Stearic acid, found in chocolate, acts as lubricant, is used in deodorant, and gives crayons their scent. Denatonium benzoate

is known for its extremely bitter taste. It is used to discourage nail biting and thumb sucking, as well as the ingestion of antifreeze. Pain relievers have their share of oddities. Take potassium nitrate, for example. You might know it better as saltpeter. Believed by some (despite lack of proof) to be an aphrodisiac, it's also used in toothpaste. Another common ingredient in painkillers, benzocaine, is a fairly close relative of cocaine.

KITTY CANNIBALISM?

On a related note, the cat might not be faring much better as a species than us. The kitty kibble may contain kitty. And of course, it's legal. While pet food companies deny the practice ("Dog food: Now made with real dog!") isn't exactly a selling point, they don't test the raw material to find out. Yet a significant number of rumors claim that a few of the bodies collected from veterinary clinics and pet shelters go straight to the rendering plants that provide said raw material.

Enjoy your meal. And whatever happens to be in it. •



Jerry Manley, owner of Flour City Diner in downtown Rochester, takes a break to talk to one of his breakfast customers. Photograph by Eric Drummond

FLOUR CITY DINER
 by Ben Dekle

Flour City Diner is tucked away on Chestnut Street in downtown Rochester, almost flawlessly blending in with its nondescript urban surroundings. In fact, if I hadn't been walking down the sidewalk with the specific intent of eating there, I would never have noticed it. Needless to say, I had my doubts as I opened the door as to whether or not it would be worth the trip.

A FEW OF THE UNDERGROUND'S BEST KEPT SECRETS
 by Evan McNamara

Sometimes, great bands get lost in the shuffle, edged out by carbon copy Clear Channel clones. Here are a few bands whose new releases are worth checking out.



THE KIDCRASH
 – Jokes

The Kidcrash have come a long way since the release of their previous album, *New Ruins*. They've abandoned the predictable pop-punk and Midwest indie leanings, but have managed to hold onto their math-rock tendencies. This turnaround is welcome. With guitar work clearly inspired by the now defunct Hot Cross and also defunct Norwegian hardcore innovators JR Ewing, The Kidcrash bear the torch of bands before them splendidly, blending largely instrumental and guitar driven post-punk with forceful vocals that truly capture the emotion-

It was a surprise, then, when I took my first step inside and found myself inside a room that would seem right at home in a modern art gallery (if you ignored the tables with customers sipping their coffee). I stood in a narrow hallway that traveled past the cashier's counter and opened up into a large room, pleasantly painted bright orange and green, with a few art pieces hanging on the walls here and there. With my initial negative thoughts dashed rather suddenly, I took a seat near the door as the waitress brought me a menu and coffee.

I ordered the hash and eggs for breakfast, and I am pleased to report that they delivered on the menu's promise that it would be "simply the best hash you'll ever have!" This wasn't your Jay's pile-of-soggy-potatoes-with-some-spam-mixed-in. The eggs were a little undercooked, considering that I asked for them over-medium, but that was probably caused by the fact that they were two of the most colossal eggs I'd ever seen.

of the band's sound. With a little noise, a tad of math, and truckloads of sincerity, Jokes is a great listen from start to finish.

ALGERNON CADWALLADER
 – s/t Demo

Say it with me: "Al-jur-non Kad-wall-uh-der". The name is hard to pronounce, but the band is extremely easy to love. Algernon offer uplifting rock songs with a twist. Each tune is propelled by swirling and intricate guitar melodies. The finger-tapped guitar interplay alone is reason enough to love this band. Singer Pete bears a striking vocal resemblance to Mike Kinsella, and much of the band's instrumentation is comparable to a more complex and melodic version of Cap'n Jazz, with a tad of Faraquet thrown in for good measure. Whether it's the bright guitar tones, swift drumming, or strained vocals, there is just something about Algernon Cadwallader that makes the listener feel optimistic. Best of all, this demo is freely available through their MySpace: www.myspace.com/algernoncadwallader. Go have a listen. You'll thank me later.

Flour City Diner's only fault is its menu selection. The breakfast menu consists of the three main breakfast dishes: Pancakes, omelettes, and eggs and toast with a side, but nothing else. Assuming that all of those are made fresh and as delicious as the hash, they'd be really good pancakes, omelettes, and eggs with toast, but the quality doesn't excuse the lack of variety (although the small size of the diner might).

All in all, I would definitely recommend Flour City Diner as a great place to have breakfast when you're in downtown Rochester. In fact, if your favorite dish from Jay's is on the menu, I would recommend you choose the Flour City Diner instead. The taste is definitely worth the extra 15-minute trip. •

For more information on the Flour City Diner, including hours and menu items, visit their website at <http://www.flourcitydiner.com>



A WILHELM SCREAM
 – Career Suicide

They say most things get better with age, and the old adage holds true with respect to A Wilhelm Scream. What started out as pop-punk band Smackin' Isaiah has since evolved into a thrash-punk powerhouse. A Wilhelm Scream blend elements of skate-punk, '80s thrash, and modern metal to create songs that are fast yet fascinating. *Career Suicide* takes the band's sound to new territories, where some songs are slower and allow the group to explore and utilize a groove to great effect. This record is the perfect soundtrack for hitting the gym, punching a hole in the wall, skating, and basically anything else you can think of. When those triple integrals start giving you a headache, throw on *Career Suicide* to let off a little steam before you punch your calculus homework in its inverse trigonometric face. •

QUIZ:

1. Technically, when will Dr. Destler be able to celebrate his official 100th day as President of RIT (starting from his inauguration)?
a. October 9, 2007
b. December 25, 2007
c. February 10, 2008
d. April 20, 2008
2. What demographic of students was opposed to the academic calendar for 2006-2007 because it only offered a single week of vacation after Fall Quarter?
a. GLBT students
b. International students
c. Students living off campus
d. Upperclassmen living in the Residence Halls
3. What will happen on East Jefferson Road on November 18?
a. A five-mile turkey trot.
b. A Thanksgiving parade.
c. A re-enactment of the first Thanksgiving dinner.
d. The baking of the world's largest pumpkin pie.
4. On November 17, what can you sample in the Gordon Field House?
a. A plethora of martial arts offered as courses through RIT.
b. A variety of wines.
c. The latest in 3D film technology as developed by RIT faculty and students.
d. Beats for a state-wide DJ-ing contest.
5. How many more days (from November 9) remain until the last day of classes in spring 2008 (not including exams)?
a. 150
b. 169
c. 189
d. 222

Answers: 1.c 2.b 3.a 4.b 5.c



REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

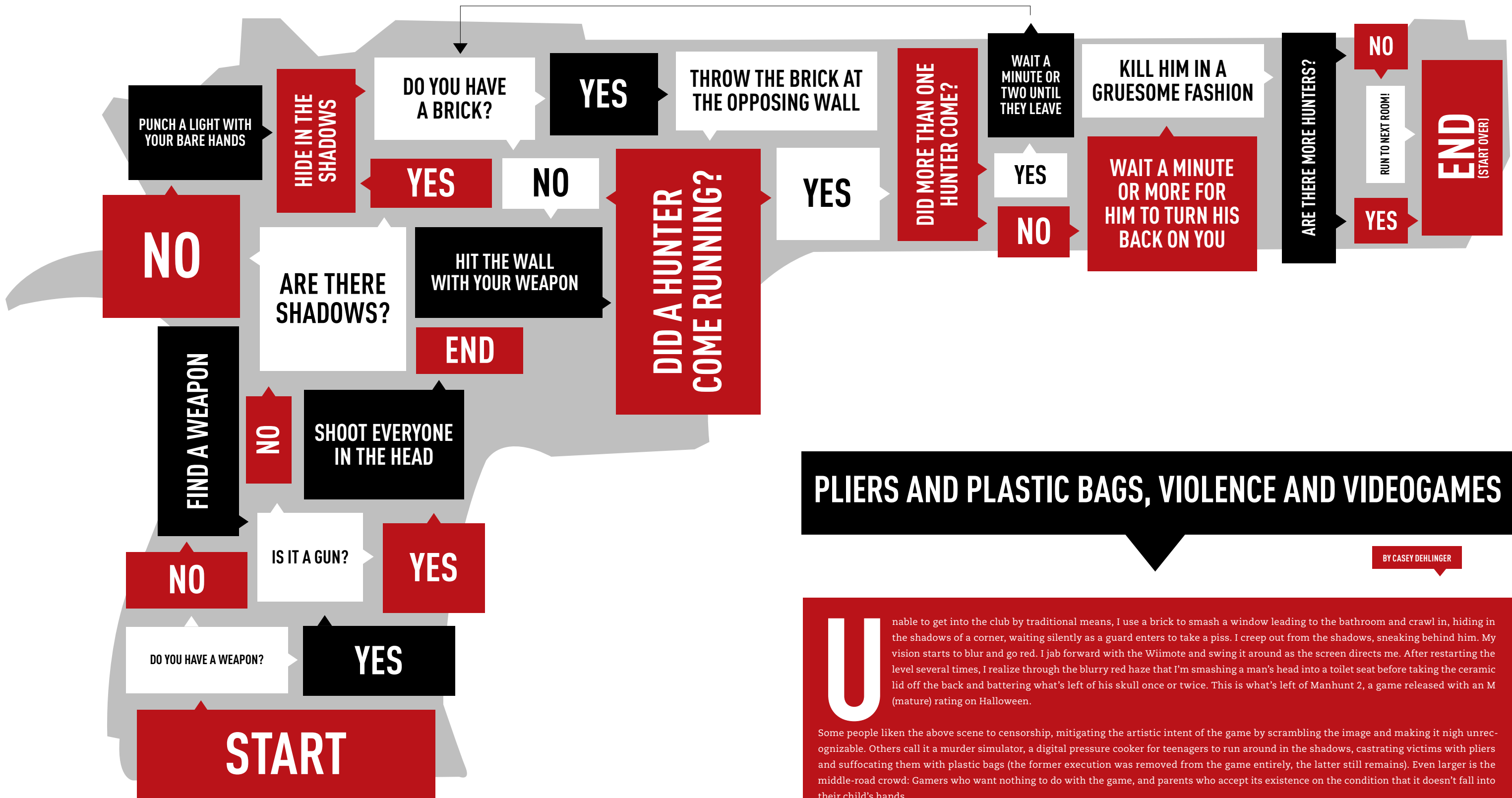
www.freerice.com. Just because you're eating with the voracity of a Katamari this Thanksgiving, it doesn't mean that others are so fortunate. And if you need to brush up on your vocabulary after having it reduced by reading less literature and more Internet forums, this is the site for you. For every vocabulary word that you correctly define from a list of four choices, 10 grains of rice are donated through the United Nations' efforts to end world hunger. If you have a younger sibling studying for the SATs, this is a must send. In ten minutes, you can help to ship off 1000 grains of rice. There's no excuse not to do it.

DIFFICULTY RATING: VERY HARD

	7				8			
				5	1			3
5					9	2	1	4
		7	6			1		
3		5		1		4		6
		6			5	3		
9	5	4	8					1
7			5	2				
			1					4

SIGN OF THE WEEK: DO YOU WANT TO BAKE COOKIES?





PLIERS AND PLASTIC BAGS, VIOLENCE AND VIDEOGAMES

BY CASEY DEHLINGER

Unable to get into the club by traditional means, I use a brick to smash a window leading to the bathroom and crawl in, hiding in the shadows of a corner, waiting silently as a guard enters to take a piss. I creep out from the shadows, sneaking behind him. My vision starts to blur and go red. I jab forward with the Wiimote and swing it around as the screen directs me. After restarting the level several times, I realize through the blurry red haze that I'm smashing a man's head into a toilet seat before taking the ceramic lid off the back and battering what's left of his skull once or twice. This is what's left of Manhunt 2, a game released with an M (mature) rating on Halloween.

Some people liken the above scene to censorship, mitigating the artistic intent of the game by scrambling the image and making it nigh unrecognizable. Others call it a murder simulator, a digital pressure cooker for teenagers to run around in the shadows, castrating victims with pliers and suffocating them with plastic bags (the former execution was removed from the game entirely, the latter still remains). Even larger is the middle-road crowd: Gamers who want nothing to do with the game, and parents who accept its existence on the condition that it doesn't fall into their child's hands.

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Violence in video games has always been a touchy subject. Horn-blowers like Jack Thompson blame the industry for catastrophes like Columbine and Virginia Tech, while video gamers feel that the link between games

like Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas and real life violence is as ridiculous as the relationship between Pac Man’s voracious appetite and childhood obesity.

Everything was innocent in 8-bit. Mario’s head stomping could never come close to the real tragedy of curb stomping. Pistol-shaped peripherals were used almost exclusively to shoot ducks, lest a disappointed bloodhound emerge from the grass to mock you with a contemptuous laugh. In-game guns shot pixels that made foes blink before disappearing in front of your eyes.

16 bits were enough to push the threshold of some humans’ tolerance. With video footage of real-life actors to be used in gameplay in highly compressed form, the combatants of Mortal Kombat appalled parents across the world with spine-ripping fatalities and the most realistic violence 1992 had to offer.

1992 also gave birth to Wolfenstein 3D, arguably the first person shooter that defined the genre for what it would become. The same game engine was used a year later, swapping Nazis and attack dogs for demons and zombie marines in the infamous computer game Doom, once again pushing the boundaries of graphics and the gore it could convey with a few dozen red pixels.

In response to games like these, Senators Joe Lieberman and Herb Kohl headed a committee designed to form a regulatory body for this rising medium. Their lovechild, the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) was born on the floor of Congress on July 29, 1994.

YOU AND WII

These days, bits are old news. After the Dreamcast came out with 128 bits in 1999, everyone pretty much stopped counting. That’s not to say that the excitement over new gaming platforms has died down. Quite the contrary, in fact. No one needs a reminder of Black Friday 2006. We all know that, to this day, sighting a Wii on a retail shelf is akin to seeing the alignment of all eight planets during a blue moon. The phenomenon has had college students, their youngest of siblings, and their oldest of relatives breaking TV screens and knocking over lamps with Wii Tennis backhands. (Check out wiihaveaproblem.com for a tally of the damage). Everything from chandeliers to nearby cats have found themselves shattered on the floor or in need of stitches after being on the receiving end of a swing of Link’s sword.

In a way, with its motion capabilities, the Wii has always had an astounding capacity for violence. One anonymous gamer confided in me that the first time they saw a Wiimote attached to the nunchuck peripheral, they immediately recognized it as a garrote wire— an association which they were not alone in making.

Godfather: Blackhand Edition was ported onto the Wii shortly after the system was released, allowing users to intimidate shop owners into pay-

ing the player’s avatar protection money. This is most effectively done by strangling them, an action that players could employ by holding the remote and nunchuk close together and shaking them with a firm, controlled grip.

Nintendo’s focus is still on its family-oriented Wii series and flagship titles, which amount to Marios and Links and Samuses (or would that be Sami?) saving princesses or defeating the mother brain. With such strong desire to be seen as a “family” console, public reactions to violent games being made for the system— or ported to it— have expressed shock. To date, Manhunt 2 is the most controversial of the lot.

Several interest groups are calling for the removal of Manhunt 2 from the shelves, reinstating the AO (adults only) rating, and other forms of censorship. The complaints focus on the Wii version, due to allegations that it is a “murder simulator.”

ROCKSTAR VS. ESRB

To put it nicely, Rockstar Games and the ESRB (the organization now responsible for applying ratings for computer and video games throughout North America) aren’t going to be buying each other friendship rings anytime in the near future. The (master/sick) minds behind Grand Theft Auto, Max Payne, and Manhunt have attracted the wrath of virtually every politician opposing violent video games. Their Halloween release of Manhunt 2 was clouded in media controversy as images cropped up of an escaped mental patient holding a shovel to the neck of a downed police officer, ready to stomp on the shovel. (An image that, in Rockstar’s defense, can’t be found in the released version of the game).

On its first pass, Manhunt 2 was given an AO rating, which most major retailers refuse to carry. It’s the equivalent of having the MPAA rate a film NC-17, blowing any shot of a wide theatre release. England refused to rate the game, deeming it too violent. Rockstar Games went back to the drawing board to make the necessary changes to get the game sold.

First to go was an execution that the protagonist can perform with a pair of pliers. No longer can you sever an opponent’s testicles to stun them before jabbing the pliers into the back of their neck and removing a vertebra. Then all of the macabre stealth kill executions were distorted by darkening the screen, overlaying a lot of red, and turning the image to a blurry black and white mess. One forum poster likened the effect to trying to watch scrambled cable pornography.

If you concentrate hard enough on the distorted images (and not on the commands in the upper-left corner telling you which way to swing the remote to continue the attack) you can usually get the idea that something violent is happening. You know you snuck up behind an orderly with a syringe, and you’re stabbing them with it, but whether it’s in the face or the heart is hard to tell.

With said changes, the ESRB gave Manhunt 2 an M rating, meaning that it can be bought by anyone aged 17 or older. The success of major retailers at IDing buyers is questionable. However, the game was still denied a rating

“MORAL WEIRDNESS”

“I’M PERFECTLY NORMAL”

“UNICORNS EAT PEOPLE NOW”

“RIP OFF HIS TESTICLES!”

by England. A copy of the unrated version of Manhunt 2 was leaked on the Internet by a Rockstar employee who has since been fired. With a modified PlayStation 2 (PS2), it can be played in its full gory glory— testicle-rip and all. A video of all the executions that can be performed in the game was released on YouTube before being removed for copyright reasons the night before the game’s release. The US PlayStation Portable version can also be hacked to remove the distortion from the executions.

Rockstar is not unfamiliar with hackers finding their way around the source code of the game and unlocking content that was previously removed. The “hot coffee mod” in Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas was a hack that opened up a minigame involving the protagonist having sex with various characters. This discovery caused the game to be bumped up to an AO rating before a re-release with the minigame completely removed.

WHEN YOU NEED ANSWERS, ASK A MAN WITH A SAW

A thick-gloved, surgeon-looking fellow with a beard and a saw greets me in the SAU Cafeteria. I’m at the Halloween meeting of RIT’s Electronic Gaming Society, Manhunt 2 in hand, trying to get some perceptions on video games, violence, and whether or not gamers actually care about Manhunt 2. Nicholas Zapetis, the club’s President, is the saw-wielding surgeon standing before me.

Within moments of mentioning video games and violence, I’m surrounded by costumed males, half of whom are in duct tape and cardboard renditions of the cast of Team Fortress 2. Violence philosophies are spurted from behind masks and helmets: *Rockstar is only looking for publicity. Violence can be interpreted as an art form, and should be treated as such.* A number of the EGS members are eager to tell me that they’ve written a paper on the subject. *A game that has nothing better to offer than violence can’t succeed as a game, or keep a gamer’s interest.*

Over Zapetis’ shoulder, a duo is playing a fighting game. *Excessive violence is unnecessary*, seems to be the hypothesis of a club member dressed as Dr. Salvador, a chain-saw-wielding Ganado from Resident Evil 4 (that particular character wears a burlap sack over his head, and, if you let him get too close to your avatar, he will swiftly lop your head off and present you with a “You Are Dead” screen in lieu of the more user friendly “Game Over”). “Violence is more effective when it places the character in a moral situation,” intones someone in the crowd.

I ask what the group’s favorite violent games are. BioShock is brought up for its “moral weirdness.” The game Overlord is brought up, causing Dr. Salvador to grasp his chainsaw a little more tightly, and say with a hint of fear, “Unicorns eat people now.” I’m approached by Sara Jackson, a second year Computer Science major. She’s wearing wings, and has recently decided (from a long list of winged video game characters) that she’s supposed to be Kid Icarus. When asked what justifies violence in a game, she replies, “Any game has a killing element, even chess.”

One thing is certain: Despite the fact that the majority of the people around me are carrying some form of a weapon, from a real saw to a plastic police baton, I am in no danger. These people are responsible and questioning, not the mindless cattle portrayed by the media, waiting to be brainwashed into going on a killing spree. “I’m perfectly normal,” says Zapetis. Enough was enough. It was time to let them see the game that all the fuss was about.

“Rip off his testicles!” shouts someone, familiar with the game’s reputation.

“AWWW, YOU COULDN’T EVEN SEE ANYTHING! THAT’S STUPID!”

“THE GAME’S NOT ALL THAT FUN”

A gamer drives Danny, the protagonist, behind an orderly in a hospital ward. Syringe in hand, the dance of the Wiimote begins, swinging side to side, up, down, anywhere. Whether or not the motions correlate to the execution is a mystery due to the scrambled image. “Awww, You couldn’t even see anything! That’s stupid!”

“That doesn’t seem like a Wii game at all,” says someone else, familiar with Nintendo’s reputation for wholesome family values. I tell RIT Film and Animation Alum Derek Sipple about the controversy surrounding the game. Dryly, without missing a beat, he replies, “If you don’t want to see the violence, turn it off.” The verdict? “The game’s not all that fun.”

W

ebcomic Penny Arcade perhaps expressed the situation most eloquently in their November 2 comic, which starts with a pie chart with only two slices: A very large one representing people in the media who care about Manhunt 2, and a very small one representing gamers who care about Manhunt 2.

The Manhunt 2 disc is ejected, and a couple of gamers immediately scurry forward, pop in Wario Ware, and request that Sipple and I step back, lest we get black eyes from a stray swing of the Wiimote.

MANO A MANHUNT

Wanting to give the game more than a cursory glance, I play it myself with half a notion that if the story is captivating enough, perhaps the violence would be justified along with the slow pace. Unfortunately, the ending can be predicted by an eight year old before you even get to control your character. Perhaps the game’s most atrocious aspect is its antisocial gameplay. It’s not the blood bath it was touted to be. You will spend 80%

of the time hiding in the shadows waiting for the opportunity to perform that stealth kill strike. You can use this special time alone with yourself to wonder things like “What am I doing with my life?” “Why did I buy this game?” “Couldn’t I be watching my laundry dry now, instead?”

I beat the game in 10 hours, and I am not a speedy gamer. Some people claim that they have done so in six hours. My immediate reaction was disgust. Disgust for the sheer lack of content the game offered. Disgust at the predictable ending. Disgust that a game (even at a discounted price) would be so short, yet so tedious that my enjoyment had stopped several levels past. As a matter of fact, the violence itself was not the most disgusting thing about Manhunt 2.

Late at night in my apartment, I was filled with rage fueled by the inadequacies of Manhunt 2. With no one to vent my woes on, I put down the Wiimote-as-murderous-hedge-clippers and picked it up again, this time as a tennis racket for an innocent round of Wii Tennis. •

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TAKING ONLINE LEARNING TO THE NEXT LEVEL:

ONLINE ADVERTISING 101

by Madeleine Villavicencio
photograph by Ross Thompson

Some might say that the last thing RIT needs is another reason for students to remain glued to their computer screens. The stereotypical RIT student is believed to spend hours decomposing in front of some form of electronic entertainment, be it Facebook or Xbox 360. If only one could get academic credit for mastering the ways of the World of Warcraft! Until then, however, students will have to settle for the next best thing. Whether your interest is in marketing and communications or in MMORPGs, Professor Neil Hair of the Marketing Department in the E. Saunders College of Business and Professor Sue Barnes of the Communications Department in the College of Liberal Arts may have the perfect course for you. Together, they have developed a unique and innovative academic experience rooted in the virtual world of Second Life.

For those unfamiliar with Second Life, it may be best described in the words of Hair as a fantasy land: “It is an online, simulated world that contains as many interesting features as you would expect to see in the real world.” Linden Lab’s Second Life is comparable to (or indeed, a step up from) Will Wright’s well-loved computer game series, *The Sims*. Second Life’s many features include the ability to personalize one’s avatar to the minutest of details, to interact with objects and other users, and to purchase virtual land with Linden dollars. Its users may also build anything their creative genius can muster. They can program these creations to function in any way they desire by using the Linden Script Language (LSL), and even sell their finished products in the Market.

What sets Second Life apart from other gaming environments is its *transferability of currency*. “The Linden dollar is readily transferable, and many organizations are spending real dollars transferring that into Linden currency to build real enterprises and make money from those investments.” This may be why Second Life has become such a hit. Companies have invested so much that it would cost more to switch and restart in another environment.

“There are a lot of interesting businesses that are taking part in this environment and using it to commercialize its activities to make money,” explains Hair. Unfortunately, not all of these businesses make use of Second Life efficiently. Students in the upcoming course (offered for the first time this winter) will study the best and worst practices that these companies apply to Second Life. Similarly, students will also be developing online advertising strategies for real clients who wish to establish a presence in Second Life.

According to Barnes, the class will also tackle topics such as identity management, impression management, and interpersonal communication. These concepts are perhaps most readily seen in how one designs his or her avatar. Barnes be-

lieves that when one creates an avatar, one must think about how they are representing or selling themselves to others: “So in a sense, when we talk about online advertising, we are not just talking about advertising other brands and products, but we are talking about individuals, and the way in which they advertise themselves,”

“IT IS AN ONLINE, SIMULATED WORLD THAT CONTAINS AS MANY INTERESTING FEATURES AS YOU WOULD EXPECT TO SEE IN THE REAL WORLD.”

The idea for the course came about because of mixed opinions regarding commercial and possible educational implications. Hair explains, “There was only one way to separate the rubbish from the reality, and that was to teach a class on it, in it... It will allow us to determine whether or not it is an effective learning environment.”

Per Barnes, the Online Advertising course, which will be offered starting next Winter Quarter, will be available to all Business majors and Communications majors, and will also satisfy Liberal Arts credits. She hopes that this will allow more students from other majors to take the course. Regarding prerequisites, Hair states, “You must have either Principles of Marketing or Principles of Advertising under your belts, because we are talking about those core concepts.” Students are also required to have a laptop computer to access their Second Life accounts.

The course involves approximately two hours of traditional lecture on online advertising, and another two hours of teaching from within Second Life. Students will also be given time during lectures to meet with assigned clients to identify the business’ expectations and goals within Second Life.

The students will be using the virtual space provided by the New Media Consortium, a non-profit organization that supports the development of new applications of technology to support learning. “The New Media Consortium owns an island

in Second Life that we will be using. It is secure and will provide us with the podiums, lecture theatres, breakout rooms, and all the things that we need to use in order to be more effective at teaching in that kind of space,” explains Hair.

Hair and Barnes agree that this course will give its students an advantage in the future. In this day and age, the number of people under 24 years old with first degrees is growing, and students are struggling to differentiate themselves from the herd. According to Hair, “this course will show a potential employer or co-op that these students are innovative... It will give them real world experience, working with real clients

who are likely to write real references that attest to their ability to work as consultants in this unique environment at the end of the course.”

The professors are unsure whether the course will be continue to be offered in subsequent quarters. If it goes well and is reviewed positively, they hope to continue to offer it, and maybe even upgrade it to a graduate level course. Expresses Hair, “I have a feeling that this will be an extremely popular course, and it is going to go down very well. As a result of that, I could see further integration of Second Life within existing courses.”

With the Provost’s Learning Innovations Grant they received, Hair and Barnes plan on investigating whether Second Life could be considered an effective learning environment. Barnes explains, “The grant will be spent mostly on Professor Hair’s course release. After we teach the class, we are going to do a series of in depth interviews with the students... We are going to do some hardcore research to get the students’ reactions to Second Life to see whether or not they liked it, because we’re trying to determine whether we should continue to use this as a teaching environment.” •

THAT GUY

JAKE T.K. WANSOR

by Ilsa Shaw | photograph by Mr. Belvedere

NAME, MAJOR, YEAR?

I'm Jake T.K. Wansor, a second year Microelectronic Engineering major.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

I would describe myself as dynamic. I am outgoing and enjoy interacting with people, but I also revel in spending time in isolation, letting my thoughts wander.

DREAM JOB AFTER GRADUATION?

Musician, something in animation, or teacher. I'm pretty much in engineering for the money, but please don't tell potential co-ops about that.

WHAT'S IN YOUR POCKETS?

Harmonica. I'm no pro yet, but I'm working on it!

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR STYLE.

I have my own style and I don't follow trends. I dress in clean cut yet eccentric and clashing clothes. I can frequently be seen in a black trench coat and any one of half a dozen possible hats. Try and spot them all!

ARE YOU PERCEIVED WRONGLY?

I believe that people see me in my hats and trench coat, metal briefcase in hand, and think that I am shifty, intimidating, self-absorbed, or a complete fool. None of these are true, except maybe the last one. I'm very warm, friendly, and non-judgmental. There are a lot of stereotypes about RIT students and about 'the trench coat kid' that really aren't true at all, or at least are not universally applicable.

DO YOU LIVE IN THE MOMENT?

In the grand scheme of things, our very lives are infinitesimal yet insignificant. However, for a fleeting moment in the vast expanse of time,

they are radiant and beautiful. I do live in the moment, because all I've got is one to begin with.

WHAT IS THE COMPLIMENT YOU GET MOST FROM PEOPLE?

"I like your hat" comes to mind. I am also told that I'm easy to talk to.

IF A MOVIE WAS MADE ABOUT YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE CALLED?

"Quicksilver" or something to do with autumn. I really don't know. Action, adventure, some sci-fi/fantasy elements, all veiling a deep commentary about something. I'll have to get back to you on that one.

ARE YOU A DAREDEVIL?

I am, but not for the sake of daredevilry. I do what needs to be done. •



HOW TO MAKE YOUR CREDIT SCORE WORK FOR YOU

by Michael Percia | President, RIT Financial Management Association

If you swipe plastic, have any type of loan, or plan on getting a mortgage someday, getting familiar with your credit score is a good idea. The reason is quite simple: Your credit score bears financial consequences. Your score is used in determining credit limits you receive and the rate of interest you pay on loans and credit cards. In some cases, a favorable credit score can even help you get that post-graduation job offer— or if it's not so favorable, take you out of the running.

A credit score is derived from analysis of your credit report. Basically, your credit history is used to calculate a score that tells lenders your level of "creditworthiness." Lenders use it to assess the level of risk they are dealing with when they lend money to individuals. A bad credit score tells them that you are a high-risk borrower; they will not be as likely to get their money back.

GET A FREE CREDIT REPORT

Most people assume that the information on their credit report is correct. Don't assume anything! Last year, I checked my credit report and discovered that I had a 30-year mortgage listed. Being a resident of Ellingson Hall at RIT, I found this quite comical. Left unchecked, however, it might not have been so funny later.

Getting a credit report is easy and free. You can access your free report at annualcreditreport.com. This website will redirect you to a credit reporting agency of your choice. You can receive the report from three agencies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. The differences between them are mostly negligible. Once you receive the report, check for any errors. If something is amiss, call the agency immediately.

After getting your free credit report, consider getting your credit score. This could cost between \$5 and \$10. Once again, you will have the option of getting your score from one of the three aforementioned agencies. Don't be surprised if your score varies a bit amongst the different agencies; they use slightly different models. The general picture, however, should be about the same.

IMPROVING YOUR SCORE

The most widely used credit score model is provided by a company named Fair Isaac. This company assigns a "FICO score" based on your credit profile, ranging from 300 to 850. The higher the score, the better. To put things in perspective, the median score in the U.S. is around 720. If your score is above 725, you are considered creditworthy.

Keep in mind that just because you make all your monthly payments does not mean that you will have a score of 850. There are several components that make up your credit score. The good news is that 65% of these components are rather easy to address. Roughly 35% of your score is based on the timeliness of your payments. If you have payments over 30 days past their due date, expect to see your score decrease.

To fix this, just start making your payments on time. Another 30% of your score is determined by comparing your credit balances to your credit limits. For example, if you have \$1,000 credit limit and you only charge a few bucks every other month, you really aren't helping your credit score. However, if you were to consistently charge \$100-\$200, this would positively impact your credit score.

The remaining 35% of your credit score can be more difficult to improve. Around 15% of your score is based on your credit history. Obviously, the longer you have had credit or have made loan payments, the higher your score. Roughly 10% of your score is affected by what types of credit you utilize (e.g. credit cards, student loans, car loans, and mortgages). Assuming you make your payments on time, a combination of more than one type of credit is likely to benefit your score. The final 10% of your score is based on the number of credit inquiries you have. Having many credit checks within a short period of time can negatively impact your credit score.

Now that you have a basic understanding of your creditworthiness, get to work on improving your score! The small changes you make in your habits to increase your score now will almost certainly pay off in the future, allowing you to enjoy lower interest rates and higher credit limits. •

5th Annual Winter Ball

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Come dance the night away with some of your friends! And other catchy PR buzzphrases! Refreshments will be served!

WHO: YOU

WHAT: SEMI-FORMAL DANCE

WHEN: 12/15 8:00PM-11:00PM

WHERE: BUILDING 70 ATRIUM

COST: \$15 PERSON / \$20 COUPLE



\$5 discount for tickets purchased in advance (get them in 70/1594)



hosted by the Society of Software Engineers



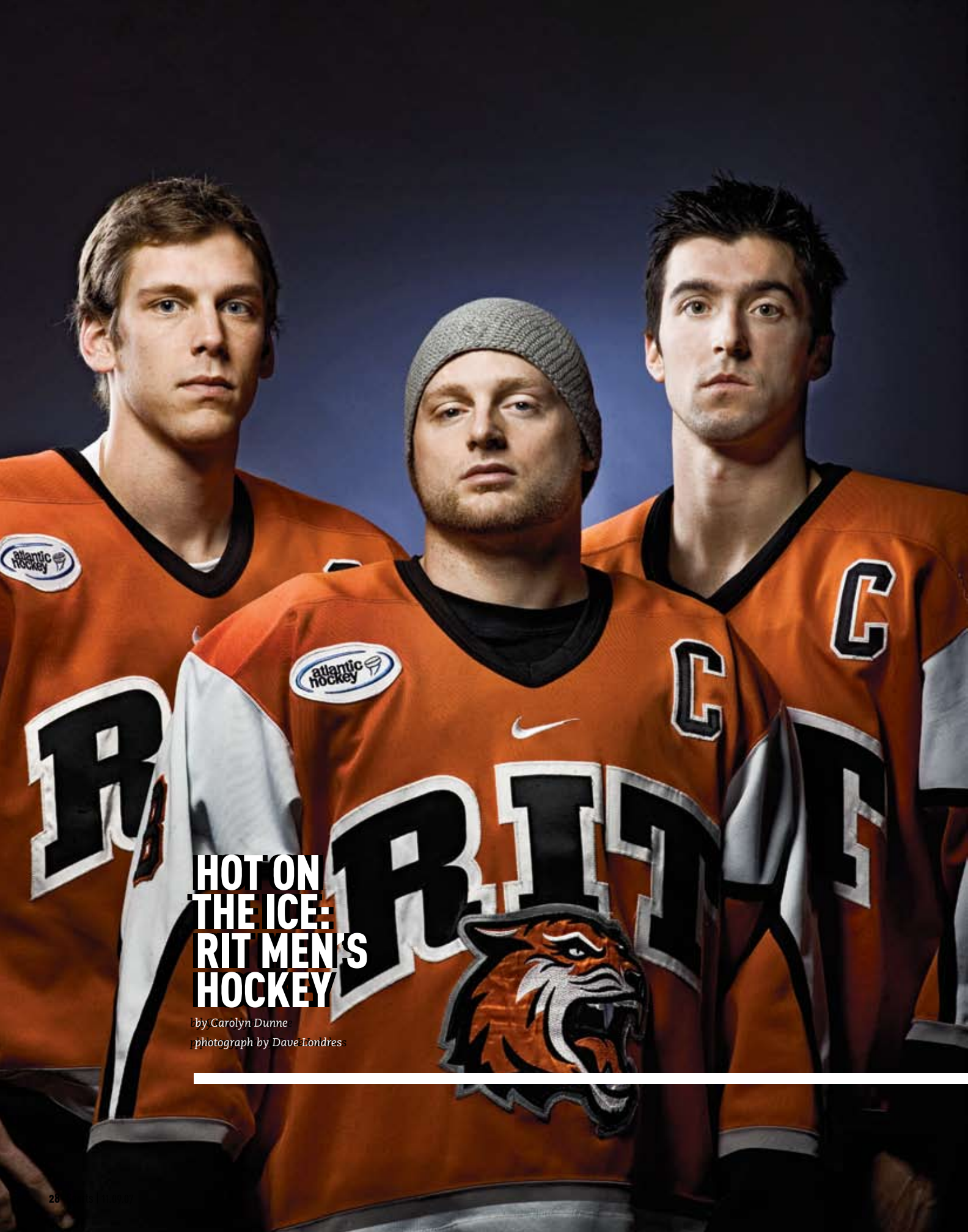
RIT Women's Hockey player Sarah Dagg looks to play the puck during RIT's 4-1 win on November 3, 2007.

SPORTSDESK

photographs by Jeff Conner

- 1 Brianne Campi tries to get past an Oswego defender.
- 2 Isabelle Richard celebrates her first period goal with teammates.
- 3 Katie Stack battles against an Oswego defender.





HOT ON THE ICE: RIT MEN'S HOCKEY

by Carolyn Dunne

photograph by Dave Londres

The RIT Men's Hockey team is in a position of power and loving it. Coming off last season's league title and voted most likely to take this season's Atlantic Hockey Association title in a preseason poll of league coaches, expectations are high as the team looks to take the AHA tournament crown and continue into the NCAA Division I tournament for the first time. Head Coach Wayne Wilson evaluated last season and was extremely pleased with what the team had achieved, from winning the AHA regular season title in their first season in the league to great team chemistry, work ethic, and the outstanding team GPA of 3.4.

But past successes are definitely not going to affect the athletes, who simply see the 2006 season as a benchmark to reach and surpass this season. Evidence of the team's hard work is seen in the awards they have already received in almost the first week of play, with senior Simon Lambert earning the Rochester Area College Athletics (RACA) Male Athlete of the Week and sophomore Louis Menard earning the AHA Goaltender of the Week for the week ending on October 28.

Although all three team captains agree that capturing the AHA regular season title in 2006 was a major accomplishment, they are keeping their eyes on the future. "The major highlight is still to come," said Lambert, because RIT is eligible for the NCAA Division I tournament in the postseason for the first time. Says co-captain Ricky Walton, their motto is "hard work every shift you are on the ice," a motto that may help the team compete for the national title. A self-proclaimed "fast, in-your-face hockey team," according to Walton, the shift in the team's mentality from 'not wanting to lose too badly' to being 'very disappointed by any losses' definitely reflects how the team is approaching the regular and postseason.

Several people were considered instrumental to the team's phenomenal season last year, and will be relied upon in this season as the team is working towards winning their division. Conditioning is a critical component of any sports team, and to gain that competitive

edge, the preseason was entrusted to strength and conditioning coach Mark Cesari, who has worked with professional athletes in the WNBA in addition to Division I athletes. Despite the pain of "getting up for 6:00 a.m. workouts four days a week," Walton notes (beginning before the start of quarter and through September) that all three captains felt that these early workouts prepared the team as a whole for the season, and allowed in-season practices to focus on perfecting different aspects of the game.

Another greatly appreciated group is the Corner Crew, as well as RIT's wider fan base at Ritter Arena. Knowing that all of RIT supports them makes the team work even harder to win. Walton specifically wanted to thank the fans for helping him get pumped up for games, and mentioned how honored he was when chosen "the fan favorite" for last season.

Coach Wilson is obviously an integral part of his team's success, and each player agreed that he has done a great job of bringing a great set of talented individuals together into a cohesive team. His dedication, tireless work with the program, and the staff's recruiting efforts were all pointed out as reasons the hockey team feels so prepared this season.

The number of returning players and the talent of the incoming class was also seen as a real asset to this year's team. With nine out of 10 players returning from an offensive line up that was ranked second in the nation, the experienced collegiate player is clearly present, as co-captain Brent Patry affirms. In addition to this, a strong defensive core is returning to defend the net along with Menard. The incoming freshman, at the same time, have a great deal of talent and work ethic, forming a strong bench and giving RIT Men's Hockey the depth that has been missing in the past few seasons. As Lambert put it, "We have four lines that can play against anybody, six defensive lines that everybody has confidence in, and two goalies who can stop any pucks."

RIT Men's Hockey will be playing Mercyhurst on November 16 and 17 in Ritter Arena, starting at 7:05 p.m. on both days. •

RIT Men's Hockey Captains (left to right) Brent Patry, Ricky Walton and Simon Lambert.

RIT RINGS 585.672.4840

compiled by Karl Voelker

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format.

FRIDAY, 1:34 P.M.

Hey RIT Rings, I need a bit of medical advice. My girlfriend had strep throat last week, and now I have burning sores [somewhere that strep throat should never go]. Could you get back to me on this? It really hurts. Thanks.

FRIDAY, 2:33 P.M.

Hey Rings, I just read the article on U of R's haunted library, and I think that's bull[gross]. If anyone's gonna have a haunted library, it's RIT. So, here's the trick: We're gonna have to murder somebody— two people would be even better— and bury their bodies underneath the library, or put them in a bookcase, because I want a haunted library, too.

FRIDAY, 4:40 P.M.

Hey Rings, I'm reading an article here called "A Very Snug Situation," by Karen Doktor. It's in the October 26 issue. In this article, she asks the question, "First of all, where does Housing get off...?" I just wanted to answer the question for her, and the answer is that Housing gets off all over the students of RIT. Okay, bye.

FRIDAY, 11:55 P.M.

Hey, I was just calling to see what you're doing. I don't know where you are right now, but give me a call when you get there. I'm just wondering what you're doing. Maybe we can hang out tonight or something. Bye.

FRIDAY, 11:56 P.M.

Hey, I was just blow-drying my hair, and I was thinking, maybe we can go get some pizza or something. Give me a call when you get this. I've left, like, 20 messages, so just give me a call. I will answer my phone. I have it on me. I'm waiting for your call. Talk to you later.

FRIDAY, 11:58 P.M.

Yeah, I just need to let Traver know that there's way too much juice in the fridge, and he needs to come back home and drink it.

FRIDAY, 11:58 P.M.

Hey, if Traver's reading this, give me a call, man, because I'm [significantly] pissed. You stole all my [I'm filled with anger] juice and I'm [more college angst] pissed, okay. Just call me. I can't even talk right now.

SATURDAY, 12:37 A.M.

Hi Rings, I was just wondering why girls at RIT feel the need to compete for guys. I mean, we're already outnumbered as it is, so why don't we just shake hands and be friends. I like you, you like me. We can all share boys. There are enough of them.

SATURDAY, 3:40 P.M.

Hello, RIT Rings! Hey, I'm lookin' at a hot lady right now. Listen, I'm living in an apartment, and I freakin' love it. I think Housing is awesome. I don't know what all these people are talking about. Now, stop calling me. I've got to get back to my drink.

SATURDAY, 5:44 P.M.

RIT Rings, I just read your coverage on tattoos, and one of the individuals interviewed said, "Obviously, 60-year-olds nowadays don't have them." Well, I'm an alum. I turned 64 in July. I got my first tattoo in August, a second one in October, and I'm getting a third one in November. So I guess that person has to re-evaluate his statement. Thank you.

SUNDAY, 2:33 A.M.

Hi, I live in University Commons, and the people below us are absolute [disappointments]! They keep calling Public Safety on us for no reason whatsoever. We take a step, Public Safety's here. We breathe, Public Safety's here. We [insert another activity here], and Public Safety's here. I just want to express how upset I am with all of them. They should all die. Have a good day!

MONDAY, 5:38 A.M.

Hey Rings, I bet you're wondering why a respectable young gal like me is walking the Quarter Mile at such a late hour. Well, here's the story: Film programs. Well, we have a cage. And that cage, at the end of the quarter, decides to be really packed, and if you're going to return anything, you have to show up at 4:00 a.m. So, you know what? Can we just blow up building seven? Is that really bad to say? Am I going to get arrested?

MONDAY, 10:27 A.M.

Hey, Rings. I was just reading your latest one, and the guy that called in on Thursday about the FlexCar really gave me quite a chuckle, because why would students ever have a say about anything at RIT? That's just silly!

MONDAY, 10:41 P.M.

Hey, Reporter, I just wanted to let you know that if RIT bans smoking, I'm going to start burning SG members with my cigarettes.

STOP CALLING
OUR OLD NUMBER.
SERIOUSLY.

NO JOY IN DENVER

by Joe McLaughlin | illustration by Bryan Williams



As I write this, the Colorado Rockies are losing seven to one against the Boston Red Sox. EIGHT TO ONE? DAMN IT! MAKE THAT CATCH! I have the game on in the background while I'm theoretically working on a software engineering proje- NINE TO ONE? In reality, my project is getting pushed to the side. 10 TO ONE? THERE ARE TWO FREAKING OUTS!

Truth be told, I feel a little guilty. Not about my project, mind you. I've been a Rockies fan since the team's inception at the beginning of the 1993 season. During their first game ever, I walked into my family room, where my dad was watching them play on TV. (They were playing his favorite team, the New York Met- ELEVEN RUNS?) I asked him what team the Mets were playing, because I wanted to be a baseball fan. (When you're five, everyone's a baseball fan, right?) He told me the name of the team, and I thought they were named after the flying squirrel. Since the Rockies were my favorite team, I picked the Rocky with the coolest name, Andres Galaraga, as my favorite player. I've rooted for Colorado ever since.

But ever since Galarraga signed with Atlanta in 1998, the Braves have been my favorite team. Partly because the Braves were in the middle of a multi-year hot streak, and partly because the Braves games were on cable where I grew up. TWELVE? CRAP! I've told people that the Braves and the Rockies are my favorite teams for nine years now. But before tonight, I haven't seen the Rockies play in at least four years, so I feel like I'm not a very good fan. I feel guilty rooting for them now, just because they're good.

Maybe liking bad teams is just genetics. No team I've actually been rooting for has ever won a championship. In my lifetime, a team my dad has been rooting for has only won the championship once. The New York Rangers won the Stanley Cup in 1994, during the last season I was rooting for the New Jersey Devils. HOW IN GOD'S NAME DO YOU LET THE SOX GET A 13 TO ONE LEAD? The Devils won the next year, and boy, I was pissed. My dad and I are also Jets fans. Enough said.

I'm good at rooting *against* teams. In fact, my fourth favorite team is usually the Red Sox, just because they can reliably beat the New York Yankees in the playoffs. (The third is "Whoever is playing the Yankees tonight.") Hating the Yankees is the only thing in baseball that my dad and I agree on. It's also the most common hatred in baseball. Boston and the Yankees are rivals in the same division; the Mets and the Yankees are rivals in the same city; Atlanta and the Yankees were rivals at the top of their respective leagues for most of the late '90s and early 2000s. Everyone else hates them because they monopolize the game by buying all the best players and are the best argument in the world for a hard salary cap. And they're evil. But I digress.

One of my favorite sports moments came right after the Red Sox came back from a 3-0 deficit in the 2004 ALCS by winning 4 games in a row against the Yankees. If any of those games had ended with the Yankees TV announcer giving his trademark yell ("THEEEEEEEEE YANKEES WIN !"), New York would advance to the World Series. And no baseball team had ever dug itself out of a 3-0 hole before. When the game ended in a Boston victory, my dad and I turned and looked at each other and yelled, "THEEEEEEEEE YANKEES LOSE!"

I've rooted for the Sox before. But I'm still compelled to change my neighbor's whiteboard from "Red Sox" to "Red Sux" every time I walk past. (For his part, my board keeps changing from "Colorado Rules!" to "Colorado Sucks!") He and I are not the only ones who think like this. Fox News ran a story on its website about presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani saying that since the Yankees are out, he's rooting for Boston. Fox called it "a baseball flip-flop." And just last week, Red Sox Nation wanted to skin Sox outfielder Manny Ramirez alive for suggesting that it wasn't the end of the world if his team didn't win.

His point was that people take what is, at its essence, just a game, far too seriously. But with due respect to Mr. Ramirez, there's a good reason why my software engineering project is getting pushed back to Saturday night. In 30 years, am I going to remember whether my Calendar project uses a Singleton design pattern or a Facade design pattern? Or am I going to remember watching Colorado win their first World Series ever? (My editor just reminded me that there's a third option: Boston could win. I refuse to consider this a possibility.)

Go Rockies! •
Editor's Note: Boston won in four games. Go Sox!

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